

ANOTHER RAID

MADE BY THE POLICE ON AN UNLICENSED PLACE.

The Home of the Workingmen's Educational Association in Myrtle Street, Watsessing, visited by the Police Sunday Night and Several Arrests Made—Recorder Post Imposed the Usual Fine.

By direction of Councilman Unanget of the Police Committee, the headquarters of the Workingmen's Educational Association in Myrtle Street, Watsessing, was visited by the police Sunday night, and the half dozen persons found there were taken into custody and brought to the police station. The cause of complaint was selling intoxicants without a license. Recorder Post imposed the penalty prescribed by the ordinance. The fine was paid by E. S. Weber of East Orange, the head of the organization. Chief of Police Collins, accompanied by all the regular members of the police force, made the raid. It was anticipated that a large crowd would be found in the place, and the police were prepared to cope with any trouble that might arise.

The Workingmen's Educational Society has been under surveillance by the police for some time. It was known that beer was sold in the club house, but only to members of the society. Saloon-keepers complained that it was an injustice to them to pay \$300 per annum for a license to do what others were being allowed to do without a license. A great question was raised that caused some delay in the carrying out of the law by the police. It was contended that the Court of Common Pleas could not upon clubs or associations be required to dispose of liquors to members to be drunk in club rooms, and the town ordinance could not be applied in such cases. This matter was referred to the Town Attorney, and he gave the police department an opinion that warranted action in the case. The club had a United States Government license for selling liquors, but that did not authorize the sale of beer in the manner in which it was sold in the club house. Before the police could act another question had to be settled, and that was the procuring of evidence that would warrant a raid of the police and the arrest of the people found there. This evidence was procured last Saturday night. According to the story told at police headquarters, the fee for membership in the Workingmen's Educational Society was twenty-five cents, which entitled a member to the privilege of buying beer checks for twenty-five cents each and good for six glasses of beer. The police say they found all the fixtures and paraphernalia of a well-conducted bar-room in the club house, together with a quantity of beer, some whiskey and cigars.

When arraigned before Recorder Post E. S. Neben, the spokesman of the party, claimed that there had been no intention on the part of the Workingmen's Association to violate any law, and the association had been advised that it could proceed in the methods that had been pursued at the club house.

Mr. Neben claimed that the sale of beer was simply one of the social functions of the club, and was carried on for the purpose of keeping some of the younger members off the street and gave the married members a place to visit with their families and enjoy a social time.

Chief Collins contradicted some of Mr. Neben's statements. Recorder Post announced that the fine prescribed by the ordinance would be imposed, and the \$20 was paid by Mr. Neben. Before leaving police headquarters Mr. Neben declared that the Workingmen's Educational Society would make itself felt in local politics next spring, and would elect officials who would permit some privileges to the workingmen. The raiding of the Workingmen's Club by the police has been a topic of discussion in Watsessing during the past week, and conflicting sentiments have been expressed. Some people hold that the town authorities were bound to protect the men who had been licensed to sell beer and whiskey, and there was no other course but to raid the Workingmen's Club. Other people hold that it was an outrage to break up the club. The workingmen, it is claimed, are by far the largest element in saloon patronage, and they ought to have the right to the use of the profits from the sale of beer in the maintenance of an institution like the Workingmen's Club.

On the way from the club house to the police station Julius Kanalz, one of the party taken into custody, escaped in the darkness. Kanalz was arrested Monday morning by Officer Smith and fined \$5 by Recorder Post.

Town Clerk Wm. L. Johnson denies that he advised E. T. Neben, head of the Lyceum, that a club had a right to sell beer without a regular license.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

SOME REASON FOR THE BOARD OF HEALTH—NEW PROJECT.

The Co-operation of Several Towns in the Maintenance of a Hospital Would Be a Matter of Great Economy—Isolation Treatment of All Contagious Diseases Regarded as the Only Safe Course to Pursue.

The care of the public health is now one of the important functions of local government. A department of the government known as the Board of Health has special charge of this line of work. From a minor position held some years ago, the Board of Health has rapidly risen to a co-ordinate position with the Town Council and the Board of Education. The duties of the Board of Health are numerous and varied, and it is clothed by the Legislature with drastic powers for carrying out its mandates. Public safety from malignant and contagious diseases is conceded by every one to be pre-eminently desirable, and the question of expense becomes a minor one when the community stands in peril of an epidemic from some alarming disease. It is well known that there is a natural tendency to sanitary carelessness prevalent in every community, and it requires the exercise of drastic measures to bring some people to a sense of their duty in this line, and the Legislature probably had this weakness of human nature in mind when it vested the powers it did in the Board of Health. With the growth of the town and the increase in population the need of even more strict censorship over sanitary matters is an absolute necessity, for the danger is much greater.

In this and other towns Boards of Health are directing more and more attention to all classes of contagious diseases. Smallpox, typhoid fever, diphtheria, scarlet fever and measles are diseases that receive attention now at the hands of the local health officials. It is becoming recognized more and more that the best public protection against the spread of such diseases is isolation of the victim. It is also generally accepted that the chances for a patient's recovery are also better in a well-maintained isolation hospital, but there is a tremendous expense attached to the maintaining of such an institution, as every town that has had to deal with the smallpox epidemic has realized. In a properly maintained isolation hospital skilled medical practitioners, expert nurses, best quality of foods, and a good class of domestic help are all important essentials, and these all come high financially in both private and public expenses.

The fact is recognized that many of the leading costly features of an isolation hospital could easily cover a wider scope of work than the requirements of a single town. It was a recognition of this that stimulated a movement a short time ago for a county isolation hospital maintained after the manner of other county institutions. Several other propositions were also brought forward looking to joint action of two or more towns in the maintenance of an isolation hospital. The city of Orange and some of its neighboring municipalities have made practical use of the suggestions, and have taken steps towards building such an institution. It is one of the lessons of the smallpox epidemic, and it is a measure taken towards being in readiness to cope with any such affliction that may occur again. Several indefinite propositions have been made from time to time that Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Montclair, and possibly Verona or Franklin, take united action in the construction of an isolation hospital, to be used and maintained by the several towns jointly. This proposition is now taking definite shape, and a committee of the local Board of Health has been appointed to confer with the health officials of the several towns above named for the purpose of ascertaining how far they are willing to go in the matter. The conference proposed is of course only preliminary to ascertaining the views of the health officials of other towns in the matter, and for an exchange of views as to the cost of such an establishment and the advantages to be derived from it. These matters will all be given publicity in due time, and public sentiment in regard to the project taken into consideration. It is obvious that it would be good public policy to be prepared before hand to meet any future outbreaks of smallpox or other malignant diseases, but it would involve a considerable expense for a small town to attempt to maintain such a state of readiness single handed; whereas, a co-operative movement on the part of several towns would entail but a small expense on each.

THE WATER QUESTION.

NO PROSPECT OF AN EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM.

The City of East Orange and the Water Company Still Far Apart—The City Makes a New Proposition to the Company—Bloomfield Apparently in a Tie-Up.

There are several important public matters that are at present in an unsettled state. One of these is the matter of fire-houses, another the question of sewerage for a large section of the town adjoining Newark, and another the water supply problem. The Town Council is negotiating with a private party for the construction of a fire-house, which, it is thought, will satisfactorily dispose of that question and avoid an issue of bonds. The Board of Health will hold a joint meeting shortly with the Newark Board of Health with a view to making some arrangement about sewerage for that part of the town where it is now needed; but the water question is in such shape that the Council can take no action until the East Orange City Council and the Orange Water Company come to some kind of a definite understanding. The negotiations between the East Orange Council and the water company took another turn Monday night, when the City Council voted to make the company an offer of \$250,000 for that part of the water plant needed by the city. When the condemnation commission fixed the price upon the plant and franchise at \$125,000, the City Council rejected the award on the ground that it was excessive. It had been testified to before the commission that the present plant could be duplicated for \$230,000. Experts also testified that, owing to the depreciation, the plant is worth now only \$165,000.

The Water Committee's recommendation that it be empowered to offer to the company \$250,000 for the plant was not received with unanimous favor by the entire City Council. The committee, in support of its plan, declared that if the plant was bought the city would be saved the trouble of tearing up all the streets in the city, and that although a considerable portion of the present mains would have to be replaced by new pipe within a few years, it would be possible to utilize a great deal of the pipe for a long period to come. The committee also called attention to the dispute as to the proprietary rights in the house connections running from the mains to the fence lines. The water company believes that these connections are its property. The city has legal advice to the contrary, which holds that the property-owners have been charged for the connections, and that they belong therefore to the householders. This question, however, might become a cause for legal action.

Councilman Baigrie is opposed to offering the water company \$250,000. He thinks that not more than \$200,000 ought to be offered the company; so that, if it is necessary to make a larger offer, the committee will have some leeway. Councilmen Ougheltree and Condit, who favored accepting the award of the condemnation commission, also are opposed to offering \$250,000, and they are supported by Councilman Palmer, but these three believe that \$250,000 is too small a price to offer the company.

With the disposal of by far the larger portion of the plant to the city of East Orange it is not believed that the water company will care to continue in business for the sole purpose of supplying Bloomfield with water, and it is very likely that this town will be asked to buy the portion of the plant used for the local supply of water. The town will then be free to purchase water wherever it can make the best bargain. A deal with Newark will of course be out of the question, for a mysterious clause in the contract between the city of Newark and the East Jersey Water Company forbids Bloomfield from getting water from Newark.

Trolley Troubles in Newark.

David Young, the general manager of the trolley company, was present at a meeting of the Street Committee of the Newark Board of Works last week, and said that the reason for the delays on the roads was that the company could not get sufficient power. He said the work on the new power station now being erected by the company, which it was expected would be ready in November, had been delayed because of the inability of the company to get materials for the building. It is now thought, he said, that the new power station will be ready by April 1.

Mr. Young was asked why the company did not buy additional power, and he said he was willing to do so, but no one had power to sell. The equipment for the new power house has been ready for some time, Mr. Young said, but is held at the shops because there is no room on the building and the trolley company cannot get the material to enclose the building.

Many instances of poor service were cited at the meeting. It was stated that in one instance a car supposed to seat thirty passengers had one hundred and three passengers aboard, and in another instance there were 188 fares rung up on a single trip.

Another complaint made by the Board of Works was that the roof signs had been removed from the cars, and this caused great confusion. Mr. Young said that these signs would be replaced. Mr. Young promised that the company would begin immediately the work of relaying the tracks on the lower end of Clinton Avenue in the middle of the road, would apply before February 1 for a franchise for a cross-town line on Bergen Street, between Orange Street and Hawthorne Avenue, would arrange to run cars from Clifton Avenue to the doors of the High School and take up plans for the relief of the congestion at Market and Broad Streets.

CONFUSION IN ASSESSMENT

Need of a Uniform Law in Essex County—Assessment Work in this County Now Extends from January to September. An Absurdity in Fixing County Valuations.

It would not be at all inappropriate if some member of the Essex County delegation devoted his attention to the framing and passage of a bill looking to the establishment of uniformity in the line of making assessments for taxing purposes among the municipalities of this county. As the case stands now the County Board of Assessors meets in the month of July and determines the county tax rate, while the time fixed for making the assessments in the several municipalities of the county ranges all the way from January to September, and the enormous situation annually arises of the County Board of Assessors announcing the total amount of valuations in the county before the assessment of the property has actually been made. Of course the County Board can make a good guess, but the method followed is not good business. It ought not to be difficult to adopt a law under which all the assessors in the county could have their work completed in July, when the County Board meets.

As the situation stands now, in the city of Newark the assessment of property for purposes of local taxation is assumed to be completed on the third Wednesday in January. In Orange the assessing begins in May and is finished in July. In this town, Montclair and Franklin the Board of Assessors begin work in May and have until the third Monday in September to complete the work. In other places in the county the work of assessment begins in May and must be completed by the twentieth of August. The incompleteness of the assessment when the County Board meets is not the only trouble resulting from the confusion of dates of assessments. It causes trouble in the assessment of personal property. Newark being the largest municipality in the county the time of assessment there should be made to apply to all the other municipalities in the county.

